

The Dead Horse DISPATCH

October 2011

A newsletter by and for the volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park

DHRSP Verde River Days



Volunteer Pat Pauly helping with the Slide



The fish were biting
GREAT!



Cheerleaders at VRD with Dunk
Tank behind them

Caught on film... Volunteers Prepping for the Verde River Day!



Art Enockson marking the areas for VRD



Bill Turner mowing the areas for VRD



Dave Penny taking a much needed break
Pictures by Tom Reeves

Mountain Bike Basics & Nature Walks at Dead Horse Ranch SP

A **Mountain Bike Basics Workshop** will take place from **Noon - 4 pm** (or until everyone's tired) on October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; and Nov. 6 & 13 at Dead Horse Ranch State Park, Cottonwood. Park Ranger **Randy Victory** says, "These will be beginner trail rides on the dirt, with some instruction on the pavement." Victory, a certified cycling instructor, will offer everything from basic riding techniques to trail etiquette. Riders will be **REQUIRED** to wear a helmet and complete an acknowledgment of risk form (parents must sign for riders under 18 years old). Visit park's home page for more information.

Plus on Sundays enjoy a **Nature Walk at 9 am**. This guided hike will meander along riparian areas or stroll through the high desert trails within the park. Hikers need to bring plenty of water, sunscreen and wear appropriate clothing such as sturdy shoes and a hat. Hike leader Park Ranger **Margie Sanchez** says, "You might want to bring binoculars and a camera, too. These hikes are a great opportunity for wildlife sightings and photo ops." Most hikes start at the Quail Loop Campground. Check with Visitor Center for starting location. Visit park's home page or Reserve campsites for this park online



The Web Of Life- A Tribute To Jim Aker

A medicine man from Columbia, South America once explained to me that our lives interconnect with each other like energetic fibers of attachment, similar to a complex spider web. We have emotional connections and ties to people, places and things. We go through our lives weaving this web with our own strand of "light" creating, reacting, turning, twisting, fitting in here and there, moving about from place to place, and experience to experience. This complex pattern normally isn't revealed to us in our single strand, but rather the whole "web of life" that we help to weave. If I were to say one thing about volunteer Jim Aker, it would be that his connection to us was empowering, and far reaching. A bigger and more meaningful pattern of life was subtly woven through his sincerity and intention. Although Jim has passed from here in one aspect, his contribution to our "web" is still unfolding. Several years ago I asked Jim to install a small, simple light above the closet in my bedroom. He spent 2 days of his own time working on the project for me. Did he know that this simple act of kindness would carry on, providing the building block, the stepping stone, for another foot to travel? Now thanks to Jim, above my closet, a lone Hopi Kachina doll, the mythic Deer Dancer, illuminates our bedroom each night. The silhouetted doll reflects a reassuring ambiance for my young son to stare at, just before he falls asleep. It has become Nathan's last light. The light that stays on when everything else becomes dark. It's his point of refuge and reassurance against everything unknown within his room. And the web goes on from here... The doll itself, in time will have meaning to him, as it was hand carved by a Hopi Medicine person from whom he received his middle name.. "Lewis". And the web goes on from there... Further still... From Jim to me, from Lewis to Nathan... Where will Nathan take it to? In the future Jim's simple act of kindness will undoubtedly inspire and empower my son in some special way. Thank you Jim for sharing your life, love, and laughter with all of us at DHRSP. Thank you for lighting the way for my young son Nathaniel. Your life came with intention, and it leaves us with purpose. Eric Buzonas



Hi Eric - I just read the latest volunteer newsletter - you truly have a gift! You're a master at adding just the right amount of irreverent humor to make all the routine news fun to read. In fact, that's the reason I look forward to reading the newsletters. Thanks for making the park a fun place to volunteer, and for reminding us all not to take ourselves too seriously! Pat Hawker

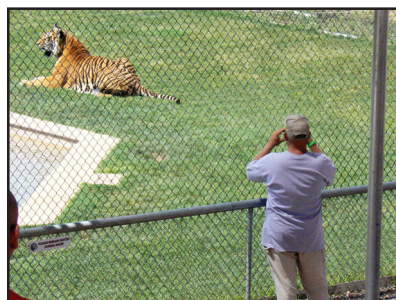
Out of Africa Tour

Lions and Tigers and Bears... Oh, My!!! Add in a kissing giraffe named Kibow, a mud-wallowing white rhino called Boom-Boom, a herd of zebras, roaming hyenas, wolves, ever-curious lemurs, the elusive coati, plus a myriad of other wild creatures who normally live on the African Serengeti, and you have Out of Africa Wildlife Park, Camp Verde. Owners Dean and Prayeri Harrison graciously opened the park's gates on August 31 to approximately 15 Dead Horse Ranch volunteers and staff members for a day of fun and education. In a landscape resembling closely to the stark African plain, the visitors were first introduced to the park and its inhabitants during a 45-minute bus tour with running narration...and a real close-up with Kibow. Following their initial orientation, the group was free to more closely explore the park on foot or via trams or trolleys which picked them up or dropped them off at the various sites around the park. (Tram driver Al was an absolute hoot!) Later, they could watch "Tiger Splash," a pair of Bengal tigers, Liberty and Akasha, interacting and "playing" with park personnel in and around a 35 by 50 foot pool; get up close and personal at the Giant Snake Show; and attend the Predator Feed when about 800 pounds of raw food was tossed to the tigers.



Our thanks to Dean, Prayeri and the staff of Out of Africa for their generosity and hospitality. It was a day well-spent...and immensely enjoyed.

This place is for the birds! Top three standing left to right: Judy & Gale Schmidt and Wayne Quimby (Other onlookers are unidentified patrons)



Not too long ago, while dad was babysitting, young Nathaniel Buzonas decided to unravel a roll of toilet paper in the living room!



Below, Out Of Africa put their necks out for us this summer by providing free admission to all DHRSP volunteers.



Volunteer Jake Pratt and a BIG BIG CAT!

Article & photos submitted by Volunteer Tom Reese

GREAT NEWS from Canada! John Ward's surgery was a success!

On Sept 24th Wanda Ward sent this note:

John has done extremely well, impressing his entire cardiac team. He started walking Saturday after lunch and hasn't looked back, walking straighter and picking up his pace.

Today he mastered walking the stairs. They took the last of the wires (external pacemaker) out this afternoon just before they discharged him. John wanted to come home and not stay in Kingston for a couple of days which I wanted just in case something happened. Here in the park we are 1/2 hour to 1 1/2 hour away for response time should help be necessary. It is a four hour drive home and it did tire him even though we stopped five times along the way.



Volunteer News October Comings

Jerrie Matthews: Quail Loop #42

Gordon & Betty Lawrick: Raven Maint #2

October Goings

31-Gale & Judy Schmidt: Raven Loop, going home to Mesa, AZ

31-John & Pat Pauly: Mesquite Cabins, heading to Gold Canyon, AZ for the winter.

October Dates to Remember

9/30-10/1-2 Festival of Native Am Culture: AZ Natives & SoWest Natives culture highlights include: film festival, music, dance, fine arts, crafts nafestival.org

10/1 American Legion Post 25 Friends & Family Golf Tournament

10/1 The great Arizona Grape Stomp

10/3 Volunteer Meetings @ VRG Studio, 9:30am

10/6 Second Annual French Flair in the Verde Countryside

10/8 Anthony Mazzella Concert at Old Town Center For The Arts

10/17 Volunteer Meetings @ VRG Studio, 9:30am

10/31 Volunteer Meetings @ VRG Studio, 9:30am

Regrettably we have more sad news.... DHRSP Volunteer David Abbott passed away Sept 2nd evening. David had battled both valley fever and a heart condition over the summer. Carolyn was by his side. This was David & Carolyn's first year volunteering with DHRSP. In a rather short time we grew to appreciate their sincerity, kindness, and friendship. Our thoughts and prayers go out to David's wife Carolyn and their family at this time. May you find the strength to carry on. Sincerely- Ranger Eric Buzonas

DHRSP October Ranger News:

Ranger Eric Buzonas will be rangering at Slide Rock SP for a time. Ranger Randy Victory has returned to DHRSP and Assistant Manager Justin Swiger will be the Volunteer Coordinator

Hi Eric, Just letting you know we arrived at Why, at 2pm today. Loved your article about "Why". Too funny! We're going to share it with our other Why friends. Thanks again for the great job that you do.

Roy & Judy Farmer

Hi everyone- We just received the August issue of the DHRSP Dispatch. It's always a pleasure to read and stay caught up on the news. Bill was nominated by his co-workers and was named "Volunteer of The Year" for Acadia National Park. He feels very honored and a little perplexed as he was "just doing his job" as Camphost. We'll be making our return reservations soon!

Jan & Bill Birtwell

Hello DHRSP- Greetings from the Pacific Northwest, where we believe Summer has finally started (we hope). This is not to imply that the weather has been "bad", it just hasn't been up to "Summer" standards. On the bright side, the Killer Whales have been in the area daily since early June, so our wildlife excursions have been really good!! We hope you're all having a great summer. See you in November.

Peter & Nancy Hardy



A black-tailed jackrabbit with pierced ears! Photo submitted by Gale Schmidt, Raven Loop

In reaction to the article posted in September's Newsletter, Tye Farrell responded... I LAUGHED out loud at "up-to-his neck"! Eric, you should be the one in public relations! Thanks for the kind words, it is greatly appreciated!

I'm very happy a nice photo came out of "find me an emergency family." And, falling in the lagoon after watching someone do that same thing, was one of my better days at work (but only in hindsight). After I left the park that day, I called Dawn and said "what are we going to do, it started to rain, I didn't get any good pictures, and I'm soaked!" Now if I can only get the exec staff to allow me to work out of the studio for a few months a year...

Tye R Farrell Marketing / Web Master / Graphic Designer

Ranger Randy's 52nd Birthday jump off 36 ft cliff at Slide Rock

In August, Ranger Randy Victory said, "I've been working at Slide Rock all summer. Park guests always ask, 'Have you done it?' (Jump off the cliff.) I hate having to say 'No'. At last I can say 'Yes!' It's actually quite a rush. The water's 10-12 feet deep... never touched bottom. The jump was nothing, actually. After watching folks stand there for 10-20 minutes getting up the 'nerve' to jump, I knew that the best way was to just do it without hesitation. Getting out of the water with all those slippery rocks and then climbing up the rocks barefoot was harder." (ctrl click on the videos below)

Video picture from <http://youtu.be/EBB5Mg7WBZM> and <http://youtu.be/knn9n7MiJ9I>

October MileStones

- 1-Teresa Munson
- 6-Fran Nile
- 10-Max Castillo
- 10-Barbie & John Hart (1986)
- 13-Karen Trushel
- 13-Vern Sisson
- 15-Marilyn Aker
- 15-Bill Zeller
- 17-Tom & Joyce Reese (2009)
- 18-Carolyn Meehan
- 19-Burt & Kathy Appling (1957)
- 20-Elsie Ross
- 21-Judson & JoAnn Munsell (1961)
- 23-David Nank
- 29-Gigi House
- 31-Peter Hardy